

My name is Yoselyn Luna-Romani from Wethersfield, CT. I am writing to you to express my support for HUSKY4Immigrants, HB 6616, a bill that would expand HUSKY Health to all CT residents up to age 26, regardless of immigration status.

It is an ask that shouldn't be doubted or even questioned. As a member of the undocumented community, I am here to voice how crucial it is to pass this bill. Healthcare insurance should be available to everyone regardless of status.

My family and I have always questioned whether we should go to the hospital. Due to our undocumented status, we didn't qualify for healthcare, therefore my parents suffered when they would get sick. They decided that I would be the only one in the family that could go to the hospital to get checked. I constantly got sick and spent a lot of time in the emergency room. My trips to the emergency room became so expensive that I remember my parents working multiple jobs to be able to pay them off. By my parents doing this put their health on halt for years even to this day. I can count on my fingers how many times they went to get health care and it's been more than 22 years plus. While I didn't realize it back then because I was little I now notice how much after many years of hardships they have carried and I see it in their dwindling bodies. I know that unfortunately, I am not the only one whose family has been in this position.

All of the programs in this HUSKY bill will end not just the discriminatory exclusion of CT residents based on immigration status but also provide healthcare to many more people and save lives.

We cannot only open HUSKY for minors under 18. The health of children and youth cannot exist without the health of their parents and caretakers. Public health depends on the health of all of us. To have healthy communities and families, all immigrants need access to healthcare.